

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

-----058505 171511Z /53

O R 171450Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6100

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 4300

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, MO

SUBJ: HOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. MOROCCAN PRESS COVERAGE OF TRIALS AND SENTENCING OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS LIMITED TO WIRE SERVICE NEWS REPORTS. NO EDITORIALS OR COMMENTS FROM PROMINENT MOROCCANS HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL MEDIA.

2. HOWEVER, ANDY YOUNG AFFAIR GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE INCLUDING TWO EDITORIALS THAT TOUCH ON QUESTION OF DISSIDENTS. FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "L'OPINION" SAYS THAT YOUNG'S STATEMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS CAME AS A SURPRISE BECAUSE IT OCCURED "AT A MOMENT WHEN A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES TO DENOUNCE THE SUPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH IN THE USSR, AND ALSO BECAUSE IT CAME FROM A CLOSE COLLABORATER OF JIMMY CARTER, STRONG DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION."

3. SECOND EDITORIAL, IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY

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"ALMAGHRIB," SAYS THAT YOUNG'S STATEMENT "THROWS OFFICIAL DOUBT ON THE ANTI-SOVIET PROCLAMATIONS OF AMERICA", MORE OR LESS INSPIRED BY SOLZHENITSYN. MR. YOUNG'S DISSIDENCE IS AT LEAST AS SPECTACULAR AS THAT OF HIS SOVIET COMRADES WHO DENOUNCED THE GULAG." HOWEVER, CONTINUES THE EDITORIAL, MR. YOUNG DOESN'T RISK FINISHING HIS DAYS IN EXILE . . . "DISSIDENCE IS THE SAME EVERYWHERE

BUT METHODS DIFFER . . . SO DO REPRESSIVE MEASURES."

4. PRIVATE COMMENT ON THE TRIALS HAS BEEN LIMITED,
REFLECTING A LACK OF MOROCCAN ENGAGEMENT ON THE QUESTION
OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS' THIS DUE IN PART TO MOROCCAN
DESIRES NOT TO OFFEND SOVIETS AND IN PART TO SENSITIVITY
ABOUT EXTERNAL CRITICISM OF MOROCCO'S OWN POLITICAL
PRISONER QUESTION. ADDED TO ALL THIS IS THE GENERAL
IMPRESSION HERE THAT SOME MOSCOW DISSIDENTS ARE ZIONISTS.
ALL THIS SAID, GOM OFFICIALS REMAIN QUIETLY WATCHFUL OF
THE EFFECT OF THE TRIALS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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